

Serial No. N/A  
Preliminary Amendment dated October 7, 2003  
In Reply to: N/A

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 1, line 3 after "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION"  
please insert the following new paragraph:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This Application relates to application no. 10/216,649,  
filed August 12, 2002, and this application relates to  
Applicant's application filed September 3, 2003, entitled  
"BALUSTER RETAINING MEMBER" (Applicant's ref. no. 7237-1).